

# REPORT

OF THE

## FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

## BROOKLYN

## UNION FOR CHRISTIAN WORK.

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NOVEMBER, 1870.

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531 FULTON AVENUE,  
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

1870.

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## Board of Managers.

RIPLEY ROPES, . . . .	<i>President.</i>
ETHAN ALLEN DOTY, . . .	<i>First Vice-President.</i>
MRS. ANNA C. FIELD, . . .	<i>Second Vice-President.</i>
MISS MARY HILLARD, . . .	<i>Secretary.</i>
SYLVESTER SWAIN, . . . .	<i>Treasurer.</i>

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## Additional Directors.

MRS. CHESTER BILLINGS, . .	}	1873.
ROBT. F. SMITH, . . . .		
MISS MARY BOWMAN, . . .		
REV. A. P. PUTNAM, . . . .	}	1872.
ROBERT FOSTER, . . . .		
REV. S. H. CAMP, . . . .		
REV. JNO. W. CHADWICK, . .	}	1871.
MISS MARY HAVILAND, . . .		
EDGAR W. CROWELL, . . . .		



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# CONSTITUTION

OF THE

## UNION FOR CHRISTIAN WORK.

ADOPTED FEBRUARY 14, 1870.

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### PREAMBLE.

WE, the undersigned, desirous of promoting our own higher spiritual good, of cultivating a more fraternal spirit amongst disciples of Jesus of every name and sect, and of engaging in extending more widely the influence of a pure Christian faith, do hereby form ourselves into an Association, and agree to adopt for our united government the following Constitution :—

### ARTICLE I.

This Association shall be known as the UNION FOR CHRISTIAN WORK.

### ARTICLE II.

Any person may become a member of this Union by subscribing to the Constitution and paying One Dollar annually, which shall become due on the third Tuesday of November of each year. On the payment of twenty-five dollars at any one time, any person may become a life member.

### ARTICLE III.

Twenty-five members shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of this Union.

## ARTICLE IV.

Not less than five days' notice of all business meetings shall be given by the Secretary, in two Brooklyn daily papers.

## ARTICLE V.

There shall be an annual meeting of the Union on the third Tuesday of November, at which shall be elected by ballot,

A President,  
Two Vice-Presidents,  
A Secretary, and  
A Treasurer,

who shall hold their respective offices for one year, or until others are elected to fill their places. Also, nine Directors, who shall so classify themselves that one-third of their number shall retire from office at the end of each year, and thereafter their places shall be filled at each annual election.

## ARTICLE VI.

The Officers and Directors named in Article V. shall constitute a Board of Managers, who, in addition to the ordinary duties of their respective positions, shall provide and furnish suitable rooms, books, periodicals, games, etc., for the general purposes of the Union; shall have the control and management of its affairs and property; shall have the power of filling vacancies in the Board; of making their own By-Laws, and of appointing such committees, subject to their direction, as they may deem expedient.

## ARTICLE VII.

At every annual meeting of the Union the Board of Managers shall give a full report of their general operations and proceedings, and, as far as they can, the results thereof for the preceding year; also, a statement of the financial condition of the Union, including receipts and expenditures, and an estimate of outstanding liabilities; also, an estimate of the probable financial and other requirements of the coming year.



## ARTICLE VIII.

Special meetings of the Union may be called by the Board of Managers at their own option, or by the President, at the written request of thirteen members. The object of such meetings shall be stated in the notice.

## ARTICLE IX.

Additions or amendments to these Articles, of which previous notice in writing shall have been given, may be made by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at any regular or special meeting.

## BY-LAWS.

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1. THE officers annually elected by the Union shall be the officers of the Board.

2. In addition to the usual duties of their respective offices, it shall be the duty of the President to make the annual report of the general operations and results thereof of the Board to the Union, and also such suggestions and recommendations for the then coming year as may seem to him to be best adapted to the success of the objects of the Union. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to give the annual financial statements and estimates of the Board to the Union, as required by the Constitution.

3. Regular meetings of the Board shall be held on the first Tuesday evening of each month. Special meetings shall be called by the President, or either Vice-President, at the written request of three members. The place of any member who shall fail to attend three regular meetings successively may be declared vacant.

4. Vacancies in the Board of Managers, or in any of the offices herein named, may be filled at any regular meeting fixed by the Board succeeding that at which such vacancy shall have been announced. And the Secretary shall give written notice to each member of the Board of the time at which such vacancy shall be filled.

5. At all meetings the order of business shall be—

First. Reading of the Minutes.

Second. Communications to the Board.

Third. Treasurer's Report.

Fourth. Reports of Standing Committees.

Fifth. Reports of Special Committees.

Sixth. Special Business.

Seventh. Unfinished Business.

6. The Treasurer shall make a monthly report of receipts and expenditures.

7. The Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of the Board.

8. At the regular meeting in November of each year there shall be appointed the following standing committees: —

A Finance Committee, of which the Treasurer shall be a member.

An Executive Committee.

A Library and Amusement Committee.

A Committee on Benevolence.

A Committee on Lectures and Addresses to be delivered before the Union or under its auspices.

A Committee of Employment, whose general duty shall be to procure suitable situations for any boys or other persons attending the rooms who shall be in need of employment.

Each of which committees shall consist of five.

9. The Financial Committee shall have the management and supervision of the pecuniary affairs of the Union, and shall generally devise ways and means for sustaining its operations. They shall have power at all times to examine the books, accounts, and vouchers of the Treasurer, and if found correct shall approve and certify his annual statement.

10. The Executive Committee shall have charge of providing proper rooms for the use of the Union, the general supervision thereof and the property therein, and shall keep the same insured. They shall appoint proper persons as Janitor and Librarian, and shall fix their salaries, subject to the approval of the Board.

11. The Library Committee shall endeavor, by voluntary contribution or otherwise, to increase the books and other reading matter for the Reading-room, shall have supervision thereof, and fix rules for the proper regulation of the Reading and Amusement Rooms, and introduce and supervise, from time to time, such additional recreations and exercises as they may think proper.

12. The Committee on Benevolence shall endeavor "to enlist in active and charitable work all those who are willing and ready

to do good," and generally to suggest and carry out such benevolent operations as the purposes of the Union seem to require.

13. The various committees shall report from time to time the requirements of their several departments, but no liabilities shall be incurred, unless previously authorized by the Board. The President shall be *ex-officio* a member of all standing committees.

14. The Treasurer shall be required to give the President ample and satisfactory security for the funds in his hands, unless he make a special deposit of them as Treasurer of the Union for Christian Work.

15. These By-Laws may be altered or amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at any regular meeting of the Board succeeding that at which notice of such amendment or alteration shall have been given in writing.

## ANNUAL MEETING.

*November 15, 1870.*

THE Union met, according to special notice, at the Church of the Saviour, Pierrepont Street, at half-past seven o'clock, President Ropes occupying the chair.

After an anthem by the choir, the Scriptures were read by Rev. S. H. Camp, and prayer was offered by Rev. A. P. Putnam.

The President then read his Annual Report, and the Treasurer submitted a statement of the financial condition of the Union.

The election of officers for the ensuing year then being in order, Mr. Cromwell, chairman of the nominating committee, presented a printed ticket of names of gentlemen and ladies recommended by the Board of Managers as officers for the ensuing year.

The President appointed Messrs. E. A. Doty, E. T. Gerrish, and R. F. Smith, as Tellers.

The President then announced that all who wished to vote who were not already members of the Union, could do so by endorsing the ballot with name and address, and afterwards signing the Constitution and paying annual dues of \$1.

During the counting of the votes, Mrs. Abbott sang a solo, and Mr. Hepworth then gave an address on the moral effect of home influence, and the want of it, in the different conditions of society.

At the conclusion of Mr. Hepworth's address the unanimous election of the ticket presented was announced, one hundred and sixty (160) votes being cast.

The following officers were therefore declared elected for the ensuing year:—

<i>President</i> .....	RIPLEY ROPES.
<i>First Vice-President</i> .....	ETHAN ALLEN DOTY.
<i>Second Vice-President</i> .....	MRS. ANNA C. FIELD.
<i>Secretary</i> .....	MISS MARY HILLARD.
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	SYLVESTER SWAIN.
<i>Directors, 1870-73</i> .....	{ MRS. CHESTER BILLINGS.
	{ ROBT. F. SMITH.
	{ MISS MARY BOWMAN.

REV. DR. BELLOWS then addressed the Union upon the problem of bringing the so-called higher and lower classes of society together, for their mutual advantage. At the conclusion of his address, Dr. Bellows made an earnest appeal for financial aid, heading the subscription with \$100. Others followed, and \$600 were raised in a few minutes. Mr. Hepworth then offered \$100 if four others would give the same amount. This was immediately raised, and then Mr. Hepworth offered another \$100 on the same conditions, which were at once fulfilled. Before the meeting adjourned \$2,865 (twenty-eight hundred and sixty-five dollars) were subscribed, as follows:—

Rev. H. W. Bellows.....	\$100 00
Ripley Ropes.....	200 00
E. A. Doty.....	100 00
Rev. A. P. Putnam..	50 00
C. P. Gerrish.....	100 00
R. W. Ropes.....	100 00
Samuel Quincy.....	50 00
G. H. Hepworth.....	100 00
E. H. R. Lyman.....	200 00
J. B. Blossom.....	100 00
Isaac Hyde.....	100 00
Isaac H. Frothingham.....	300 00
G. H. Cary.....	200 00
G. H. Hepworth.....	100 00
N. H. Cary.....	100 00
Charles Blossom.....	100 00
H. E. Dodge.....	100 00
James B. Blossom.....	200 00
Jos. B. Blossom.....	100 00
Cash, a Friend.....	25 00
Jos. Atkins.....	25 00
D. D. Badger.....	100 00
E. B. Hyde.....	25 00
A. M. White.....	200 00
Miss H. Jusebury.....	20 00
P. Shaw.....	10 00
W. H. Cromwell.....	25 00
S. H. Lawrence.....	10 00
P. G. Taylor.....	25 00

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\$2,865 00

MR. CHADWICK then moved, that as there were many present who would probably prefer to come up and subscribe without giving out their names, that the meeting now adjourn.

After singing a congregational hymn, the audience therefore adjourned at a late hour.

MARY HILLARD, *Sec'y.*

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

PRESIDENT, MR. RIPLEY ROPES.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:—A year ago this evening we were assembled in the chapel of this church in the interest of what was then known as the “Liberal Christian Union.” At that meeting the propriety of changing the name of the Association, as recommended in the Report of the then retiring President, was referred to the new Board of Directors, to report at some future meeting. On the evening of the 14th of February following, at a meeting at its rooms, 131 Fulton Avenue, the Directors reported in favor of a change of name, and by a unanimous vote the name was changed to “The Union for Christian Work,” in the interest of which it devolves upon me to submit the following Report.



With the change of name there seems to have come, in a measure, a change of work, and certainly great increase of care and responsibility; but it is very gratifying to record the self-sacrificing spirit on the part of all who, during the year, have accepted the responsibilities, and faithfully performed the labors of love. Verily it is a Union for Christian Work, and if the main reason assigned for a change of name—"that the Association might appeal to the public as being less denominational," thus hoping to bring to our aid as workers those who could not or would not join us heretofore, because a Liberal Christian could not be deemed Evangelical—has failed of the expected effect, yet God has blessed us. Our prayers to Him for light and strength, made more earnest by efforts at practice, have been answered. His smile has rewarded and is constantly rewarding our faith in the work upon which we have entered.

There have been very few evenings since our last Annual Meeting that I have not been present at the Rooms, for a longer or shorter time, and I shall always remember them as among the pleasantest and most profitable of my life. As I have looked upon the pleasant and intelligent faces of many of those boys, gathered in from all sections of our city, some of them fatherless, some motherless, some orphans, and then, in my mind, looked along the future of their lives, I could see the rich fruit of the interested efforts of those Christian men and women, who, evening after evening, have gathered there, in the interest of a pure Christian faith, seeking by its exercise to carry out the work upon which the Union has entered, and establish its success. And this I believe they have done. The President of 1868, in his Annual Report, spoke of the work as being, at that time, rather of promise than performance, and eloquently urged increased interest. The President of 1869, in his Annual Report, testified to a work of performance, and pointed the way to a larger success. It becomes my duty, as it is most certainly my pleasure, to announce to you that the usual result of following good advice has rewarded our efforts, and this year finds the "Union" fully entered upon its Christian work, solving the problem of salvation from the temptations which beset the young so constantly, to well-ordered, useful, and, as we believe, Chris-



tian lives, with no misgivings as to the constant enlargement of its sphere of usefulness, so long as it continues to receive your generous support.

At our last annual meeting, the Union was occupying very limited rooms in Hamilton Building, with an average attendance of about fifty in reading-room and amusement-room combined. So limited were our rooms perhaps I should add because of our limited financial resources, that there was felt no need of the services of any one in the matter of discipline, beyond those of our Librarian and the members of the Board of Directors. We were doing a work, but it was felt by many friends that we were not improving our opportunities. That feeling ripened into action on the evening of November 22, 1869. The tangible evidence of increased interest, manifested at the meeting held on that evening, fairly leaped into active exercise, and to-night finds the "Union" in much less limited rooms, with ampler appliances for the management of its work, with its reading-room fairly filled, a nightly attendance of boys, youth, and adults, varying from one hundred and fifty to two hundred—sometimes more, seldom less—with no unsettled bills, and a small fund in its treasury.

The Register, open to the examination of all who may wish to see it, gives the names of nearly or quite eighteen hundred boys, with their ages, occupation, places of residence, parents, if any, and other information of interest or help in carrying out the objects of the "Union." Writing and spelling classes, under the interested and faithful tuition of Messrs. W. A. Butler, E. T. Gerrish, and G. C. Brackett; drawing classes, under the kindly and patient teaching of the Misses Hull, have been formed, and have all made rapid improvement. The development of many of the boys is highly encouraging, and the evidence is not wanting that the foundation for useful lives, fraught with good to themselves and others, will prove to have been found in the good counsel gained in the rooms of the "Union." It is impossible for them to be within the kindly atmosphere of their surroundings so continually and not be benefited.

Through the boys many of their parents have been reached, and their visits to the rooms, to testify their gratitude for the

help rendered them in thus opening the way to a better life for their children, have been frequent. Excellent situations, with those interested in the work, have been found for many of the lads; and it is pleasant to record that in no one instance have these efforts been misdirected. A Sunday-school, under the superintendency of Messrs. R. F. Smith and E. M. Wheeler, has been commenced. The character and disposition of its officers promise persistency and ultimate success.

Soon after entering our present rooms a series of Thursday evening entertainments, as a method of amusement and instruction, was determined upon, and has been carried out very successfully. The services of piano, stereopticon, magic lantern, etc., have been in good demand, but the kindly aid of those ladies and gentlemen, who, during the season, have entertained all present with their recitations and readings, has proved of great value, inciting many boys to similar efforts. Their desires were speedily detected by their nightly attendant and never wearied friend and his assistant, and every opportunity given for development, with what success is known to all who have been present at these weekly gatherings.

The excellent suggestion in the last yearly Report, that our rooms should be provided with washing apparatus, has been carried out. A "clean skin" is now the rule, and no boys are admitted to the reading tables or amusement tables or studies who "are not in a fit condition to associate with decent people."

The reading-room for adults, with its limited number of amusement tables,—not allowed in use during the day,—its extensive range of reading tables, carrying thirty-five newspapers, secular and religious; its shelves with some thirty magazines; its library of nearly or quite seven hundred volumes, is well patronized, and affords a pleasing contrast to the very limited room previously occupied on Court Street. The visitors are of all ages, from the man of threescore or more years to the youth of seventeen, often younger; for it has been our custom, when we have found lads in the rooms above more intent at the reading tables than at the amusement tables, to invite them to the reading-room; the invitation is viewed as a promotion and gladly accepted. Thus the number is increased, the room is rendered

more pleasant, and, I think, more profitable in its results. This room, in conformity to a vote of the Board of Directors, has been opened on Sunday from 2 to 6 P.M. The attendance has not been large. I would suggest a change of hours—that it be open from 9 A.M. until dark, believing it would increase the number of visitors. Those who are in the habit of attending morning service at church would hardly abate it to visit a reading-room, while those who do not attend church might visit a free reading-room, and gain some profit from a perusal of some of the religious papers or books with which the tables and shelves abound.

To whom, outside of our regular yearly contributions, are we indebted for the means furnished by which I have been enabled to give you this record of success? The enthusiasm of our last yearly meeting was an impetus, morally and financially. The excellent lecture from the Rev. Robert Collyer, on "Clear Grit," although it added but little to the funds in the treasury, yet made them larger because of his generous abatement of terms, while his words of counsel proved of great help, starting as was the "Union," just then, into larger life. Neither should we forget the rapid and faithful work of our first Vice-President, whose presence in the Board we missed too suddenly. Gifts in profusion, of books, periodicals, illustrated papers, and general reading matter, adapted to the needs of our visitors, have reached us from Messrs. James S. Noyes, C. M. Newville, R. W. Ropes, E. A. Doty, D. W. Cromwell, J. H. Frothingham, David Baker, Mrs. Carter, Mrs. Harriet Hillard, Miss Mary Hillard, Miss Mary A. Porter, and many others whose names we do not know, but whose kindness we desire to acknowledge. For the arrangement of illuminated texts and pictures which adorn the walls of the rooms, quietly but effectively helping on the work, we are indebted to the skill and interest of the librarian, Mr. Thompson.

I would not have the "Union" abate its interest in adults by slackening its efforts to make the reading-room attractive and useful, but I consider the other part of its work by far the most important. The names of eighteen hundred boys, now on its Register, indicate very clearly, to my mind, the duty to which it

is called. I know of no such Register in this or any other city; I know of no such work as this upon which the "Union" has entered, although I have made diligent inquiry. Some doubting friends have said to me, "You have obtained them by offering amusements." This is true, in part; but how else, I ask, could we have obtained them? Boys naturally seek amusements; who of us, in our boyhood, did not? We have sought to win these boys to our confidence by a series of amusements, which, connected as they are with other and controlling influences, make them not doubtful of good results. We have won many and gained their full confidence. If we save but a small number of those whose names are recorded, from the fearful results of the many modes of amusement offered them *outside* the rooms of the "Union," it will compensate for all we have done or may do in their interest. I believe we shall save many. Let those who doubt visit the rooms and aid the work; all doubts will be removed, as they witness the eagerness with which the majority await the hour of call to the pursuit of objects other than amusements. Possibly the doubter may be benefited and made happier by the discovery of a work upon which he can enter with satisfaction to himself and profit to others.

Doubtless the number of the Register seems large to some, but if we walk for an hour, on any pleasant evening, along the thoroughfares of our city, we shall see many boys whose speech and manner indicate deteriorating tendencies, and a fearful future for themselves and others whom they will or do influence. I would invite all such to the care of the "Union," even if the record reached many times eighteen hundred; and believing, as I do, that it is a work to which God has called us, I would go onward in faith, nothing doubting, in full assurance that He will point us the way to a faithful discharge of all duties pertaining to the trust. Sweet fountains send forth sweet streams: "The early years of life are those in which character is shaped for weal or woe. He who saves a youth saves a man, ay, saves many men, for as evil example is contagious, so is the good, and one good man saves many." The more names recorded, the more we may feel assured of a constant working capital—a capital sure of a good paying interest—not only to our wards but to our country



and ourselves; for if we lead them in the way of innocence, purity, and truth, we do much toward advancing our country in all the elements of true happiness and greatness, rendering less necessary labors of this nature for our children when the time arrives for them to take our places in life.

The By-Laws which govern the "Union" make it incumbent upon the President to make in his Annual Report such suggestions as he may deem proper for its further government. The results achieved during the year now closing, proving, as they do, the faithfulness of all who have taken part in the work, seem to leave small room for improvement, yet there is some.

Occasionally, during the year, small sums of money have been contributed by various members of the Committee, for the purpose of relieving pressing cases of sickness or extreme poverty of the parents of some of the boys. In every instance the parents have been visited, their condition and the cause fully examined, and the help justified. I would recommend that in the appointment of the Committee from the Board on Benevolence, there be added four members outside the Board—two ladies and two gentlemen—to whom this part of the work shall be confided, and that a sum of money shall be set apart from the general fund for this object, to be replenished as occasion may require and the Board deem expedient. It has been very pleasant to me to witness the mutual benefit derived from the aid extended in this direction. The younger members of the Committee, who relieved the necessity, thus extending the blessing, discovering that the exercise of the impulse proved fraught with blessings to themselves, they now seek further opportunities. In God's name, let us help them to the exercise of this beautiful spirit of doing good. It has seemed to me that the visitors to the rooms, from the societies who have assumed the charge of the "Union," are too few. Their absence can hardly be from lack of interest. We have too much evidence to the contrary. Let the pastors of the several churches, all of whom are members of the Board of Government, appeal especially to the younger members of their charge. The work of the "Union" is no longer a problem, but a fixed fact, and upon the young men and young women must it devolve sooner or later.

Invite the young men to sit often at the tables of the reading-room, and let them invite and bring in those less favored than themselves, whom they know would be benefited by the intercourse. Invite both young men and young women to the boys' rooms, and thus by their presence give character and strength to the work. The number in Committee of nightly attendance is not limited. All who come will be welcomed, and service assigned for each and every evening. Urge them strenuously to a work which, in blessing others, will bless themselves, the ever sure reward ordained of heaven to all efforts in well-doing. Urge in each society the formation of a Sociable in the especial interest of the "Union," to meet each month, thus bringing together at the rooms or elsewhere a strong representation from the four societies. I think this would beget and keep alive a spirit of enthusiasm, so necessary for the complete and continued success of any enterprise. With the full awakening of an interest on the part of the younger members of the societies, the work of the regular weekly Committees would be lightened, there would be no omission of the Thursday evening entertainments, the means for interesting lectures, readings, music, etc., being always at hand.

Some of the ways of God are not past finding out. We have entered upon one in accepting this work, and may pursue it in full confidence. The trust is a pleasant one, but for its successful fulfilment the wisdom which cometh from above is needed. There must be a heart to feel and a hand to labor. The influence exerted by our labors has extended beyond our city and beyond our denomination. Visitors to our rooms, not of our religious belief, as they say, attracted by our manner of work and satisfied with its operations, announce their intention of "doing likewise" in one of the great cities in the West. God speed them.

Thus encouraged at home and abroad, let the "Union for Christian Work" continue to prove the correctness of its name by its labors. Founded in the spirit of the Christian religion, prompted by a desire to extend its blessings to all—regardless of sect—who may come within its influence, it may demand and expect to receive enlarged support. The fruit of its labors may not be at present, but the harvest is sure. "Faithfulness to the present is the way of living for the future."

## TREASURER'S REPORT.

*Brooklyn Union for Christian Work in Account with C. P. Gerrish, Treasurer.*

DR.		CR.	
Amt. due the Treasurer, per bal. sheet last year.	\$51 13	Subscriptions and An. Dues received during the year.....	\$4,261 40
Rent of Room.....	1,000 00	Gross Receipts from R. Collyer's lecture.....	170 95
Salaries.....	838 50	Sales of Books.....	15 45
Fitting up new room.....	1,043 44	Interest from funds invested.....	49 22
Periodicals and Newspapers.....	186 39	Sundries.....	32 72
Wm. A. Butler's Bill for materials for Writing and Drawing Schools.....	62 05		
Final payment on Piano.....	208 00		
Gas and Fuel.....	242 83		
Rone Bros.' Bill for printing Annual Report of last year.....	40 00		
Sundries.....	280 77		
Balance.....	576 63		
	<u>\$4,529 74</u>		<u>\$4,529 74</u>
		Credit balance in hands of the Treasurer, due November 15, 1870.....	\$576 63

BROOKLYN, Nov. 14, 1870.

CHAS. P. GERRISH, *Treasurer.*

## ADDRESS OF REV. G. H. HEPWORTH.

CHRISTIAN FRIENDS :—Do we ever sufficiently consider the sharp contrasts in the different conditions of society? Here is the little boy with flaxen hair and blue eyes in our own homes. He is born into an atmosphere of affection, and his every want is supplied by wise and thoughtful love. All his powers are cultivated for a life of purity, of health, and usefulness. All the influences which are brought to bear will, in the future, come back and cause him to hear the voice of his mother or father speaking to him of goodness.

The result is a manhood filled with honesty and the fear of the Lord.

But, on the other hand, see the beginning of the child of poverty, who is born at the other end of society. Ignorance, falsehood, moral darkness, and unwholesome conditions of every kind make the atmosphere of his life from the beginning. Is there anything more sad than the sight of such lives, deformed by influences for which the victims are not responsible? Society perpetuates conditions which make it certain that thousands of children will grow up through a darkened and perverted youth to a manhood and womanhood wasted, mischievous, and at war with society.

The logical, the inevitable result, I had almost said, of bad example and no restraining influences, is infamy to-morrow and next day the State Prison. There is no better reformatory Christian agency than a Union like the one before us. We, whose lives are so full of advantage and blessing, cannot escape responsibility for the state of those about us whom we can help. Work is the test of Christian character. Praying will do little good if we are careless of the needs and woes of any of our fellow-men. It is only the generous thought that has wings strong enough to reach heaven. The surplus wealth of the rich men of Brooklyn would elevate all its poor. There is no religion but that which finds its way out of the fingers in good deeds and out of the lips in good words. Let all present show that they have a religion that not only fills their hearts but expels all the money from their pockets.



## ADDRESS OF REV. H. W. BELLOWES, D.D.

It has been well said that the great problem of the present time is, how to bring the two extremes of society together ; how to bring those who are called high into sympathy with those who are called low ; how to assure those who are debased and outcast of their brotherhood with the strong and rich and happy. It is by no means certain that the sinful and wretched need us more than we need them. Perhaps, in God's sight, we are not so much better than they. Our better circumstances are not to be set down to our merit. We are shielded and helped as others are not. We need, for our own growth and salvation, to make sacrifices for the good of those who are less fortunate than ourselves. Have we not vices of selfishness, of the love of ease, which are as bad for us as are the grosser vices of others for them ?

Our people have always had a special connection with the thought that religion includes the whole conduct of life. This thought was a heresy in the eyes of many people a few years ago. Indeed, it is so still to the thought of many who bear the name of Christians. We have, and shall always have, a special responsibility and duty in fostering this idea of religion, and carrying it into practical life in the world about us. It is a work to which we are especially called, to take hold of everything in human life and character and society, and make it healthful and pure and good. We are to find our work in everything that is human. We are to lay hold of all human powers and activities and relations ; upon education, amusements, misfortune, crime, upon youth, upon passion, upon the whole mass of life, and lift it up, and make it divine.

All about us there are many who need us. We go astray when we care too much for ourselves ; the meaning and object of life become apparent when we care for others and try to live for them. Money, culture, light, strength, and happiness are given us, not for ourselves, or our own use, but for the help of others. Our own sorrows, which crush us now, would be lightened and lost if we would but give our thought and sympathy and life to the needs of those about us.

Liberal Christianity was the first to see that religion included everything which belonged to the well-being of humanity.

Christian Unions are the secular work of the church, which is just as important as that called ecclesiastical.

DR. BELLOWS closed with an earnest appeal for pecuniary assistance for the Union, which met with a generous response.



